

April 16, 2007

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
2112 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John W. Olver, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, and  
Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Knollenberg, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, and  
Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

We urge you to support congressional funding for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC), a national nonprofit intermediary organization, which has been committed for more than 35 years to supporting the development of affordable housing in the nation's most rural and underserved places. HAC has an excellent record as a lender, capacity builder, and information provider and should be included in the 2008 Department of Housing and Urban Development appropriation.

We, the undersigned 266 organizations, represent vibrant, rural communities across America. Our efforts to build and sustain affordable housing for low-income rural residents are often complicated by funding cuts and capacity challenges. Throughout, HAC has been a staunch advocate, a lender, a source of information and technical advice, and a friend to rural housing providers. At times, when others have ignored rural America's needs, HAC has stood firm and kept rural issues at the forefront of the national discourse.

Congressional funding allows HAC to support rural communities and provide:

- **Lending.** HAC has loaned more than \$217 million dollars to 1,875 organizations to develop 56,000 units of affordable housing. These loans have helped thousands of families own or rent affordable, decent homes in 49 states and the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.
- **Capacity Building Grants, Technical Assistance, and Training.** HAC has raised and distributed more than \$5 million in capacity building grants to nurture over 300 local nonprofit organizations engaged in affordable housing development. Grants, supported by technical assistance and training have a ripple effect, enabling recipient organizations to begin to sustain themselves and better serve their communities.
- **Research and Information.** The HAC website, [ruralhome.org](http://ruralhome.org), helps to overcome the geographical isolation that impacts many rural communities and brings up-to-date information and technical resources to often disconnected rural communities. *Taking Stock* and other HAC research provide objective analysis of rural housing and poverty conditions that impact more than 55 million rural residents.

With continued congressional support, HAC can sustain and expand its exceptional work in the rural communities you represent across America.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Alabama**

Alabama Non Profit Housing Inc.,	Oneonta
Ecumenical Ministries,	Fairhope
Habitat for Humanity Hale County, Inc.,	Greensboro
HERO,	Greensboro
North Glover CDC,	Mobile
SE Alabama Self-Help Association, Inc.,	Tuskegee
Sowing Seeds of Hope,	Marion

**Alaska**

Alaska CDC,	Palmer
RurAL CAP,	Anchorage

**Arizona**

Comm. Action Human Resources Agency,	Eloy
Emanika Associates Architects, Inc.,	Florence

**Arkansas**

CHICOT Housing Assistance Corp.,	Lake Village
Crawford-Sebastian Comm. Dev. Council,	Fort Smith
Delta Studies Center,	State Univ.
East AR Strategic Planning Initiative,	Brinkley
Eldorado Housing Authority,	El Dorado
SACD,	Arkadelphia
St. Francis County CDC,	Forrest City
Universal Housing Development Corp.,	Russellville

**California**

Cabrillo Economic Dev. Corp.,	Ventura
California Coalition for Rural Housing,	Sacramento
California Housing Partnership Corp,	San Francisco
California Human Dev. Corp.,	W. Sacramento
Center for Community Advocacy,	Salinas
Comm. Hsng. Improvement Program,	Chico
CHISPA	Salinas
Legal Services of Northern California,	Chico
Mercy Housing	W. Sacramento
Organizacion en California de Lideres Campesinas,	Pomona
National Housing Law Project	Oakland
Peoples' Self-Help Housing Corporation,	San Luis Obispo
Rural California Housing Corporation,	W. Sacramento
Rural Community Assistance Corp.,	W. Sacramento
Self Help Enterprises Inc.	Visalia
Self-Help Home Improvement Project	Redding
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Nation,	Thermal

**Colorado**

Century 21 Real Estate	Pagosa Springs
Colorado Housing, Inc.	Pagosa Springs
Grand County Housing Authority	Fraser
Habitat for Humanity of Colorado	Denver
Habitat for Humanity of Montrose Cty	Montrose
Housing Justice	Denver
Housing Resources of Western Colorado	Grand Junction

**Delaware**

Delmarva Rural Ministries, Inc.	Dover
NCALL Research Inc	Dover

**Florida**

Coalition of Florida Farmworker Orgs.	Florida City
Florida Home Partnership, Inc.	Ruskin
Florida Low Income Housing Associates	Inverness
Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc.	Sebring
Homes in Partnership, Inc.	Apopka
Indiantown Non-Profit Housing	Indiantown
Rural Neighborhoods	Homestead

**Georgia**

East Athens Development Corp	Athens
GA State Trade Assn. of Nonprofit Developers	Atlanta
Home Development Resources, Inc.	Gainesville
Hsng and Econ. Leadership Partners, Inc.	Athens
Ropheka Rock of the World, Inc.	Atlanta
Sams Memorial Community Econ. Dev.	Darien
Seminole County Training School CDC	Donalsonville
Southwest Georgia HDC	Cuthbert
Washington Clay CDC	Atlanta

**Hawaii**

Hawaii Human Dev. Corp.	Honolulu
Self-Help Housing Corp. of Hawaii	Honolulu

**Idaho**

Community Council of Idaho	Caldwell
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**Illinois**

Franciscan Ministries, Inc.,	Wheaton
Housing Action Illinois,	Chicago
Illinois Migrant Council,	Chicago
YouthBuild McLean County,	Bloomington

**Indiana**

Community Action of East Central IN,	Richmond
Comm. Action Program of Evansville,	Evansville
Heart House,	Aurora

**Iowa**

Northeast Iowa CAC	Decorah
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**Kansas**

21st Century Homestead,	Altamont
Emporia Comm. Hsng Org., (ECHO),	Emporia
Interfaith Housing Services, Inc.,	Hutchinson
Mental Health Assoc. of the Heartland City	Kansas City
NEK-CAP,	Hiawatha
New Beginnings, Inc.,	Hutchinson
Northwest Kansas Housing, Inc.,	Hill City
See-Kan Cooperative Development, Inc.,	Sedan

**Kentucky**

Community Housing, Inc.,	Winchester
FAHE	Berea
Frontier Housing,	Morehead
Housing Development Alliance,	Hazard
Kentucky Housing Corporation,	Frankfort
Kentucky Mnt Hs Dev' Corporation,	Manchester
Low Income Hsng Coalition of E. KY,	Prestonsburg
McCreary Cty Comm. Hsng Dev. Corp.,	Whitley City
Owsley County Action Team,	Booneville
Partnership Housing, Inc.,	Booneville

**Louisiana**

United for Fair Economy,	Mandeville
Greater North Louisiana CDC,	Jonesboro
MET - La. Housing,	Hammond
Mt. Olive Waterworks District,	Grambling
Project 2000, Inc.,	Hammond

**Maine**

Bread of Life Ministries,	Augusta
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.	Wicasset
Community Concepts	South Paris
Rumford Group Homes, Inc.,	Rumford

**Maryland**

Interfaith Housing Alliance, Inc,	Frederick
Southern MD Tri-County CAC, Inc.,	Hughesville

**Massachusetts**

Hilltown CDC,	Chesterfield
RCAP Solutions,	Gardner
Rural Development Incorporated,	Turners Falls

**Michigan**

Bay Area Housing, Inc,	Bay City
Channel Housing Ministries, Inc.,	Hart
G.A. Haan L.P.,	Harbor Springs
Human Development Commission,	Caro
Jackson Affordable Housing Corp.,	Jackson
Marquette County Habitat for Humanity,	Marquette
NW Michigan Human Services Agency,	Traverse
Northern Homes CDC,	Boyne City
Saginaw County CAC,	Saginaw
Washtenaw Affordable Housing Corp.,	Ann Arbor

**Minnesota**

American Indians in Unity,	Saint Paul
Becker County Housing,	Fergus Falls
Grand Portage Indian Housing Authority,	Grand Portage
Minnesota Housing Partnership,	Saint Paul

**Mississippi**

African American Cultural Society,	Starkville
Central Mississippi, Inc. (CMI),	Winona
Christian Housing Dev. Org., Inc.,	Columbus
City of Picayune,	Picayune
Delta Foundation, Inc.,	Greenville
Esther Stewart Buford Foundation,	Yazoo City
Southwest Mississippi Opportunity, Inc.,	McComb
West Holmes Community Dev. Org.,	Tchula

**Missouri**

Economic Security Corp. of SW Area,	Joplin
Green Hills Community Action Agency,	Trenton
Missouri Valley CAA,	Marshall

**Montana**

Midwest Assistance Program,	Lewistown
N. Cheyenne Housing Improvement Prog.	Lame Deer
Neighborhood Housing Services,	Great Falls

**Nevada**

Rural Community Assistance Corp.,	Dayton
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**New Hampshire**

Laconia Area Community Land Trust,	Laconia
NeighborWorks Greater Manchester	Manchester

**New Jersey**

Crusaders CDC,	Bridgeton
Mendham Area Senior Housing Corp.,	Mendham

**New Mexico**

Centro Fuerza Y Unidad,	Mesquite
City Of Lordsburg,	Lordsburg
Eastern Plains Housing Dev. Corp.,	Clovis
Greater Hidalgo Area Chamber of Comm.,	Lordsburg
Habitat for Humanity – Gila Region,	Silver City
HELP-New Mexico, Inc,	Albuquerque
Hsng Authority of the City of Las Cruces,	Las Cruces
Navajo Partnership for Housing, Inc.,	Gallup
Santo Domingo Tribe, Santo Domingo	Pueblo
Siete del Norte,	Embudo
SW Neighborhood Housing Services,	Albuquerque
Supportive Housing Coalition of NM,	Albuquerque
Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation,	San Miguel

**New York**

ADD Community Services Programs, Inc.	Wappingers Falls
Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Hsng Fdn, Inc.,	Rochester
Cuba CDC,	Cuba
Hudson Valley Housing Development Finance Corp.	Wappingers Falls
NYS Rural Advocates,	Blue Mtn Lake
NYS Rural Housing Coalition,	Albany
Rural Development Leadership Network,	Prince St. Stn
Rural Opportunities, Inc.,	Rochester

**North Carolina**

Design Corps,	Raleigh
Habitat for Humanity of Moore County,	Aberdeen
Herrington Village, Ltd.,	Elizabeth City
Hinton Rural Life Center,	Hayesville
Housing Assistance Corporation,	Hendersonville
Inez Community Development Co.,	Greensboro
Lincoln Apartments, Inc.,	Durham
Moore County Habitat for Humanity,	Aberdeen
Mount Sinai Homes,	Fayetteville
Mountain Projects Inc.,	Waynesville
North Carolina Housing Coalition,	Raleigh
Panola Heights Housing Dev. Corp.,	Tarboro
Princeville Housing Development Corp.,	Princeville
Robeson County CDC,	Rowland
Southern Real Estate Mgmt & Cons.	Durham
Telamon Corporation, Rowland	Rowland

**North Dakota**

Southeastern North Dakota CAA,	Fargo
Spirit Lake CDC,	Saint Michael
Standing Rock Housing Authority,	Fort Yates

**Ohio**

Adams Brown Counties. Econ. Op. Inc.,	Winchester
COHHIO,	Columbus
Habitat for Humanity of Morrow Cty,	Mt. Gilead
Rural Appalachian Housing Dev.,	Glouster

**Oklahoma**

Latimer County Housing Authority,	Stigler
Native American Housing Services, Inc.,	McLoud
Tri-County Indian Nations CDC,	Ada

**Oregon**

CASA of Oregon,	Newberg
Junction City/Harrisburg/Monroe	Junction City
Habitat for Humanity,	
LeBanon Area Habitat for Humanity,	Lebanon
Rural Collaborative,	Portland
Umpqua CDC,	Roseburg

**Pennsylvania**

Alliance for Better Housing,	Kennett Square
Columbia County Housing Corporation,	Bloomsburg
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania,	Glenside
Livable Hsng & Comm. Dev. Software	York
Sisters of St. Francis,	Aston
Threshold Housing Development, Inc.,	Uniontown
Trehab,	Montrose

**South Carolina**

Allendale County ALIVE,	Allendale
CDC of Marlboro County,	Bennettsville
Lowcountry Hsng and Econ. Dev. Fdn,	Charleston
United Methodist Relief Center,	Mt Pleasant

**South Dakota**

Inter-Lakes Comm. Action Partnership,	Watertown
Oti Kaga, Inc.	Eagle Butte

**Tennessee**

Affordable Housing Resources,	Nashville
Buffalo Valley, Inc,	Hohenwald
Carey Counseling Center,	Paris
Crossville Housing Authority,	Crossville
Eastern Eight CDC,	Johnson City
Foothills CDC,	Alcoa
Hawkins Habitat for Humanity,	Rogersville
Joshua & Nehemiah Comm. Ministry,	Jackson
Riverview Kansas CDC,	Memphis

**Texas**

Action Gypsum, LP, ,	Houston
Amigos del Valle,	Mission
Association of Rural Comm. in Texas,	Austin
Comm. Council of Southwest Texas,	Uvalde
CDC of South Texas, Inc.,	McAllen
Futuro Communities,	Uvalde
Housing Plus, Inc.,	Harlingen
Lower Valley Housing Corp.,	Fabens
McAllen Affordable Homes,	McAllen
Motivation, Education and Training, Inc.	Austin
Organizacion Progresiva de San Elizario,	San Elizario
Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project,	El Paso
Proyecto Azteca,	San Juan
Self-Help Housing of East Texas,	Newton
South Texas Civil Rights Project,	San Juan
Texas C-BAR,	Austin
Urban County Program,	College Station
Walker-Montgomery CHDO,	New Waverly

**Utah**

Mountain Lands Comm. Housing Trust,	Park City
Neighborhood Nonprofit Housing Corp.	Logan
Rural Housing Dev. Corp. of Utah County	Provo

**Vermont**

Brattleboro Area Comm. Land Trust,	Brattleboro
Lamoille Housing Partnership, Inc.	Morrisville
RNA Community Builders,	Rutland
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition,	Burlington
Vermont Housing & Conservation Board	Montpelier

**Virginia**

Bay Aging,	Urbanna
Blue Ridge Housing Development Corp.,	Roanoke
Community Housing Partners Corp.,	Christiansburg
HOPE Community Services,	Farmville
Mountain Shelter,	Wytheville
Rappahannock Tribe, Inc.,	Indian Neck
Southeast RCAP,	Roanoke
Trailview Development,	Abingdon
Volunteers of America,	Alexandria

**Washington**

Diocese of Yakima Housing,	Yakima
Homes for Islanders,	Friday Harbor
Kitsap County Consolidated Hsng Auth.,	Silverdale
Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing	Yakima
Okanogan County CAC,	Okanogan
Shelter Resources, Inc.,	Bellevue
WA State Farmworker Housing Trust,	Bellingham
WA State Housing Finance Commission,	Seattle
Whatcom Skagit Housing,	Bellingham

**West Virginia**

Comm. Homebuyer Investment Program	Wheeling
Harts Community Development Inc.,	Harts
Housing Authority of Mingo County,	Williamson
Stop Abusive Family Environments,	Welch
Telamon Corporation,	Martinsburg
Woodlands Development Group,	Elkins

**Wisconsin**

America's Dream, Inc.,	Seymour
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups	Madison
Southeast Wisconsin Housing Corporation	Burlington
UMOS,	Milwaukee

**Wyoming**

Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area,	Jackson
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cc: Hon. Judy Biggert  
 Hon. Artur Davis  
 Hon. Geoff Davis  
 Hon. Sam Farr  
 Hon. Barney Frank  
 Hon. Rubén Hinojosa  
 Hon. Marcy Kaptur  
 Hon. Alan Mollohan  
 Hon. Ed Pastor  
 Hon. David Price  
 Hon. Rick Renzi  
 Hon. Bennie Thompson  
 Hon. Maxine Waters